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HMA-OC-15
2 October 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

THROUGH: Operations Division

ATTENTION: [redacted] 50X1

SUBJECT: Negative, Film Positive, and Contact Print Quality of Photographic Material Evaluated to Date

1. To date [redacted] has evaluated approximately forty (40,000) feet of large scale film negative, film positive, and contact prints. All statements of percentage on large scale materials mentioned hereafter are based on forty (40,000) feet of original film negative.

2. Negatives - Large Scale

(1) In approximately ten percent of the material evaluated it was found that the metering device was functioning incorrectly, therefore causing a narrow space between frames or an area of overlapping images on a small portion of the frame.

(2) Indications of static electricity were present on some portion of all rolls of large scale materials received. By that it is meant that on some portion of each roll the effects of static electricity were present. Of course this was not true of the individual frame.

(3) Minor scratches and pinholes were present on all rolls of material received.

(4) Tearing was found in numerous instances - all major tears were repaired with cellophane tape.

(5) Water spots were found on some rolls, however, no major problem in utilization was encountered because of this defect.

(6) On the average it was observed that apparent resolution ranged from good to fair on designation seven (7) and from fair to poor on designations six (6) and eight (8).

(7) It was estimated that about forty-two (42) percent of the large scale material was good for detailed photo interpretation, forty-nine (49) percent was fair, and the remaining twenty-nine (29) percent poor or unsuitable for accurate interpretation. Although a

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detailed quality comparison of film quality between designator seven (7) and designators six (6) and eight (8) has not been made, quality observations have indicated that in all cases the PI suitability (quality wise) of designator seven (7) is far superior to that of designators six (6) and eight (8). The main objection being that negatives from designator six (6) and eight (8) appear to have a slanted cut or improperly exposed appearance. In only a few instances have the negatives from designators six (6) and eight (8) had the sharpness and quality approaching the equal of their companion from designator seven (7).

3. Negative - Designator one (1)

(1) All treated negatives evaluated to date have been of good or excellent quality.

4. Film Positive - Large Scale

(1) The quality of film positive, has been good. In a few instances the film positive material has been a little dense, but not to the extent that it created any major problems in utilization.

5. Film Positive - Designator one (1)

(1) The quality of the film positive in general has been good. Here again, in some instances the material was a little dense.

6. Prints - Large Scale

(1) A major criticism in the material provided [redacted] is the quality of the paper prints. The poor quality of many prints made them completely unusable for interpretation. The quality of prints ranged from extreme underexposure to extreme overexposure.

ARTHUR C. [redacted]
Chief, [redacted]

cc: Mr. Reber
cc: [redacted]

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